

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



June 26, 2002

COUNTY FISCAL LETTER (CFL) No. 01/02-61

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
COUNTY FISCAL OFFICERS
COUNTY AUDITOR CONTROLLERS
COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS

SUBJECT: CLAIMING OF RELATIVE/NONRELATIVE EXTENDED
FAMILY-MEMBER FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENT COSTS

REFERENCE: All County Letter (ACL) Nos. 01-85 and 02-19
CFL No. 01/02-55

The purpose of this CFL is to remind counties that federal financial participation for relative/nonrelative extended family member maintenance payment costs is limited to those cases approved in accordance with the current Title IV-E Foster Care regulations as outlined in ACL Nos. 01-85 and 02-19, and CFL 01/02-55. Federal regulations require that relative and nonrelative foster homes be approved in accordance with the Adoptions and Safe Families Act (ASFA) regulations to be eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement for maintenance payment expenditures.

For nonrelative extended family member maintenance payment costs that do not meet the eligibility requirements for Title IV-E, counties may report costs to the extent they are eligible as State-Only Foster Care (State-Only foster care homes must also meet certain licensing/approval standards). Relative/nonrelative extended family member maintenance costs that do not qualify within the Title IV-E or State-Only Foster Care eligibility standards are considered to be county-only placements, and are paid with county-only funds.

Counties are encouraged to review their records to ensure that federally eligible cases and those cases that are not eligible for federal reimbursement have been appropriately identified on your Assistance Payment Claims. Federally eligible cases are claimed on the Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures - Federal Children in Foster Care [CA 800 FC (FED)]. State-Only expenditures are claimed on the Summary Report of Assistance Expenditures - NonFederal Children in Foster Care (CA 800A FC).

As you know, counties have 18 months from which costs are paid to file an adjustment with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). In addition, per the CDSS Manual of Policies and Procedures (MPP) Division 25, Section 210, counties are required to maintain all supporting

documentation when claiming for Federal or State reimbursement including those costs associated with relative/nonrelative extended family member foster care placements.

If you have questions concerning this CFL, please contact your Fiscal Policy Bureau Analyst at (916) 657-3440.

Sincerely,

***Original CFL Signed by Marge Dillard
On June 26, 2002***

MARGE DILLARD, Chief
Fiscal Systems and Accounting Branch

c: CWDA